

SUSTAINABILITY

This page identifies Greenbelt's sustainability efforts which show the city's progress towards meeting the State of Maryland's requirement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the Council of Governments' Climate Change Initiative. These initiatives have goals to reduce one's carbon footprint by 10% by 2012 and 20% by 2025.

Performance Measures	2005 Benchmark	2006 Benchmark	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual
Electricity Usage (Kilowatts)	4,437,261	4,341,280	4,012,436	4,344,353	4,347,447	4,293,346	4,207,790
Natural Gas Usage (Therms)	139,718	136,025	136,222	141,494	129,357	122,367	112,622
ICLEI Carbon Calculation (Tons – CO ₂)	3,894	3,894	3,760	3,720	3,500	2,710	1,763
Recycling Rate	48%	48%	53%	56%	57%	61%	56%
Landfill Tonnage	2,165	2,069	1,886	1,802	1,703	1,592	1,586
Alternative Fuel Vehicles	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
Gallons of Fuel Used (Fiscal Year)	n/a	n/a	95,453	111,199	98,194	91,392	95,806

Sustainability Highlights

- Through calendar year 2012, the City has reduced its carbon footprint well beyond the state and COG goals. With all of the City's electricity being purchased using wind credits through a contract with Clean Currents, as of July 1, 2011, the carbon foot print has been reduced 55%, exceeding the State's and COG's goals. The city has also reduced its consumption of electricity and natural gas by 13%.
- The Pool Pak and Heat Exhaust units at the Aquatic and Fitness Center were replaced in 2010. Two new HVAC units were installed at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center in 2011 using Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act money. These units have helped reduce electricity usage by five (5) percent and natural gas usage by almost 20% since 2005.
- In FY 2009, the new Public Works Facility was completed with a geothermal heating system, storm water bio-retention gardens and other "green" elements. While the size of the facility increased by more than 160% from 1,610 square feet to 4,240 square feet and added a 9,750 square foot vehicle storage building, electricity usage is up only 31% and natural gas usage is down 28% compared to 2005.
- In 2012, the city installed energy efficient lighting in a number of city parking lots and along the Lakewood Stream Valley Path. Based on an estimate from the Maryland Energy Administration, the City will save approximately \$9,000 per year in electricity costs.
- The city's recycling goal is to recycle 63% by 2015.
- The Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability is finalizing a sustainability plan for the organization and community.
- As measured in 2010, Greenbelt's tree canopy is 62% compared to a communities' average 30%.